(a) Fertilizer Association of India in its representations and in its meeting with Government have suggested total decontrol of urea.

(b) Government has not taken any decision on total decontrol of urea.

Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project

1404. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report, "Reinventing a big bad deal" published in the Outlook dated 10th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have cleared the Indo-Oman Joint Venture Fertilizer Project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Committee of Secretaries headed by Shri N.K. Singh, the Finance Ministry as well as the Planning Commission were opposed to this project; and

(e) if so, the reasons for clearing the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Government have approved investment of IFFCO & KRIBHCO in the revised and restructured Oman India Fertilizer Project on 20.6.2000 after considering all aspects relating to the Project. The approval is however, subject to early resolution of certain outstanding issues. The salient features of the revised and restructured project are as under:—

— Capital Cost : USS 969 million

— Debt-Equity Ratio : 67:33

— Debt : USS 649 million

— Equity (IFFCO & KRIBHCO) : USS 160 million

Equity (Oman Oil Company)	:	USS 160 million

Retail price of Urea

1405. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed that the fixation of maximum retail price of Urea by Government should continue; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Fixation of the maximum selling price per tonne of urea continues to be done by the Government as per provisions of Cause 3(1) of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

Excess drawal of Fertilizer subsidy

1406. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently ordered CBI enquiry into the excess drawing of subsidy by some of the country's top corporates in fertilizer sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, including the names of the companies which have understated their capacity, and how much excess amount of subsidy is reported to have been drawn during the last five years by each company; and

(c) by when the CBI enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Government have taken two-pronged action to address to the issue related to understatement of capacity and excess drawal of subsidy by some of the urea manufacturing units in the country: one action relates to initiating penal action and the other relates to the recovery of the excess amount drawn as subsidy. In so far as penal action is concerned, the matter has been referred to the Central